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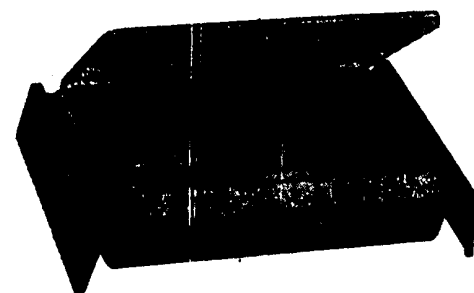


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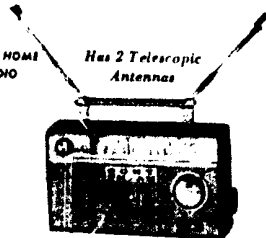
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U. S. LOWERS CURB ON TOURIST VISAS

Continued From Page 1, Col. 5

A problem embarrassing to the American image abroad, though they believe it has been unjustly magnified out of proper proportion.

With its abolition, responsibility for securing the eligibility of tourist visa applicants will still remain with local consular officers. In cases where the consular has doubts about an applicant's eligibility under the Immigration and Naturalization Act, he may still orally ask searching questions in an interview.

Other Moves Weighed

Abolition of the questionnaire is the first of a series of administrative reforms being discussed in the State Department to make foreign tourist travel to this country easier. It "talks for" that has studied the problem has just reported Secretary of State Dean Rusk on changes that could be made in procedure. The possibility of amending the McCarran-Walter Immigration law is also under discussion.

Representative John V. Lindsay, Republican of Manhattan, introduced amendments to the law in the House yesterday and took issue with the system of questionnaires for applicants. While the long form was required only at the discretion of consular officers, he said, these officers "too often give undue offense by poor judgment in requiring this form of respectable and reputable foreign citizens." Abolishing the form will presumably have two advantages. First, it should avoid embarrassing "respectable and reputable" citizens by encouraging consular officers to move more delicately in insuring that the law's eligibility requirements are met.

Burdens on Consulate

Second, it should reduce the scary stories about the ineffectiveness of the American bureaucracy. In practice, when the long questionnaire was required, consular officers asked applicants to answer only those questions that dealt with points on which the consular officer doubted eligibility.

However, officials here said applicants inevitably noted the wide range of personal, political and financial questions on the form and went away spreading stories of Uncle Sam's insatiable curiosity.

"The law itself puts a heavy burden on the consular officer's satisfaction about the alien applicant," until he can establish otherwise to the consular officer's satisfaction. The administrator's chief concern is to prevent persons planning to immigrate from entering the country under tourist visas. The law makes the consular officer responsible for determining whether the tourist visa applicant really has nothing in mind but visiting or whether he intends to put down roots once he arrives here.

Frenchmen Are Pleased

PARIS, March 4.—The United States consulate here is now able to issue nonimmigrant visas to French applicants in thirty minutes instead of the eight to ten days it used to take.

John R. Diggins Jr., in charge of the visa section, described the new approach as follows: "In the old days our system was geared to screening the percent we didn't want. Now we're concentrating on making things as easy and pleasant as possible for the 98 per cent who are welcome."

The French applicant simply turns over his passport and waits in a comfortable chair in the waiting room while the staff and the latest in electronic machines quickly process the application.

Before the visa is issued the tourist is interviewed for about five minutes on possible Communist affiliation, contagious diseases and length of residence in France.

The officials in charge of interviewing applicants lean over backward to pose these questions in the least embarrassing way possible. They report that very few French tourists are disturbed by the questions.

Fight Is Renewed in Congress Over a Panel to Oversee C. I. A.

By G. F. THURSELL

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 4.—Stand, Republican of California, proposes a joint committee of the House and Senate to oversee the Government's foreign intelligence agencies to the Congress's oversight.

The matter is now before the House Rules Committee. Whether the panel will permit the issue to go to the floor may be decided early next week. It appeared doubtful that the committee would do so.

The House and Senate have split into strong and firm camps. One argues that the Congress has not been informed fully of critical danger situations throughout the world, and should be, if only in confidence. The other side holds that Congress already obtains information through operations almost as secret as those of the intelligence agencies themselves. They contend, further, that too much disclosure of the nature of the security because of possible leaks of confidential information.

C. I. A. Is Made Target

The principal target of sponsors of Congressional oversight on intelligence matters is the Central Intelligence Agency. Others include the intelligence units of the armed services and the State Department. The first was started by Representative Edna F. Kelly, Democrat of Brooklyn, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mrs. Kelly and others have pointed out that the C. I. A., established by President Harry S. Truman in 1949, and its predecessor agencies have never reported to Congress or been required to account for their appropriations. The C. I. A. director, Allen W. Dulles, is the only man in government who can spend large sums without Congressional scrutiny, they say.

Congress itself has excused the agency from telling about its organization, functions, names, official titles, salaries or number of employees. The director has authority to hire and fire without regard to civil service or other rules or regulations.

Mrs. Kelly's bill, which appears to be in trouble with the Rules Committee and Executive Branch agencies, calls for a joint committee of eighteen members to oversee intelligence operations while preserving protection of national security secrets.

Representative Edgar W. Rie

Edouard Wurmser, got her visa a pure coincidence. "My husband and I obtained our first visa a year ago and we have nothing but praise for the prompt and courteous service we received at the United States consulate," Mrs. Wurmser said.

"We found the questions we were asked to be a little unusual, but there was nothing objectionable about them," she said.

Consular officials here say they have been issuing visas without any delay for Swiss local travel agents confirmed that the processing had been rapid for several days.

Irish Find It Easy

DUBLIN, March 4.—This must be one of the most pleasant cities in Europe in which to obtain a tourist visa for the United States.

That was the impression formed after spending some time sitting among tourist applicants at the United States Embassy in Merrion Square.

Both the consul in charge and his secretary dealt with each applicant in helpful and friendly manner. No embarrassing questions were asked and, in accordance to American consular

fact, it was learned that only two applicants had been refused visas in the last two years.

There were for health reasons. There has been no change in the procedure since President Kennedy assumed office. But the whole atmosphere of the visa section has become more relaxed and friendly without short-circuiting State Department regulations. Twelve hundred tourist visas were issued last year, compared with 900 in 1959.

German Tourist Surprised

BONN, Germany, March 4.—A would-be West German tourist here today said: "If I had known before that all I had to do was to fill out this little thing, I'd have applied for a visa long ago."

The "little thing" referred to, the size of a playing card, was an application form asking for name, address, profession, date and place of birth, nationality, ethnic origin, marital status and passport details. The applicant had heard he would have to fill out a lengthy questionnaire.

This is a thing of the past, according to American consular

officials here. It was used in what are described as "emergency cases" where the consular officer could not satisfy himself of the nature of the applicant's visit. But on March 1 all copies of the questionnaire were burned, consular officers said.

For a number of reasons, Bonn is not a typical visa office in West Germany. This is a relatively small town and nearly everyone wanting to go to the United States is known to the embassy. The average number of visa applications has been 100 monthly. The processing has been swift and competent.

Identity Cards in Belgium

BRUSSELS, Belgium, March 3.—Getting an American visa became easier for Belgians on Feb. 15 when the State Department announced that they could present identity cards in place of passports.

All Belgians are obliged to carry identity cards but not all take the trouble to get passports.

This change of procedure, which seems to have been in the works for some time but which occurred soon after President Kennedy showed an interest in tourist travel from Europe, has impressed trans-Atlantic travel agents.

That of Robert H. Jernoch, director of Pan American World Airways in Belgium.

"It's a change in regulations that is helpful to tourists," he said. "I hear comments to the effect that Belgians think there still too much red tape about traveling to the United States. They say: 'We let Americans come here without a visa, why shouldn't they let us come back?'"

The procedure for obtaining a visa takes about a half hour.

Forms Dropped in Oslo

OSLO, Norway, March 4.—The consul here, Karl Ackermann, said that the order would have little practical effect here as it had been necessary to make "only sparing" use of the forms.

In granting visas to Norwegians, he termed it the first administrative step by the Kennedy Administration to speed the process.

The consul said that the applicant was required to read the statement listing criminals, prostitutes, those affiliated with Communist organizations and the like as ineligible to receive visas. The applicant is then asked whether he is eligible, and his reply is under oath.

Brooks Are Special Problem

ATHENS, March 4.—The Greek immigration quota to the United States is limited to 308 persons yearly.

Due to Greek population pressures and the fact that almost every Greek family has a member in the United States, more than 100,000 applications for emigration are on file. The result is that many Greeks try to obtain tourist visas and hope for a later change in status after arriving in the United States.

Well-known businessmen and convincingly bona fide tourists have been able to get a tourist visa within twenty-four hours or less. The average lag for other applicants is about two months.

Joseph B. Costanzo, United States Consul General here, said:

"We have to be most careful with tourist visas and establish beyond a doubt that the applicant has no reason whatever to abandon Greece."

He said that about 11,000 persons called at his office each month—twice as many as five years ago.

Two Yugoslav Tourists

BELGRADE, March 4.—Because of lack of money, there have been only two genuine Yugoslav tourists to the United States in the last two years—concerned.

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